

Parent-to-Parent Session



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Objectives

- How to form collaborative relationships with schools and other care providers overseas
- Manage stress effectively while caring for a child with special needs.
- Discuss tips and techniques for raising a child with special needs.



Welcome to Holland!



Chronic Stress



- Crisis prolonged without rest.
- Body produces steroids to respond.
- Steroids remain in body raising blood pressure, changing mood.
- More likely to cause illness and disease.

Exercise: The Magic Answer!



- Improves breathing efficiency.
- Helps prevent coronary artery disease.
- Delays aging process.
- Strengthens muscles, tendons, bones.
- Increases stamina, energy.
- Allows for easier, better sleeping.
- Releases endorphins; makes us feel good.

Relaxation

- ✓ Yoga
- ✓ Meditation
- ✓ Deep breathing
- ✓ Massage
- ✓ Listening to relaxation tapes



Intellectual and Cultural

Benefits of Laughter

- Exercises lungs.
- Stimulates circulatory system.
- Increases oxygen to blood.
- Relieves pain.
- Distracts from stress.
- Reduces tension; increases production of endorphins.



Do Something For Yourself Each Week



Nurture Important Relationships



Get Help!



Things We Learned

- Let go of guilt; you (and your child) are doing the best you can.
- Trust your gut! If you think something is not right, do something about it.
- Pace yourself; you are in this for the long haul.
- Celebrate small successes.

Things We Learned (cont'd)

- Ups and downs are natural.
- Forgive yourself (and your child) for things that go wrong.
- Live one day at a time.
- Plan for future, but don't worry about it.
Good things will happen for your child that you can't imagine now!